AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a method for distributing peripheral device operational metrics information, the method comprising:

receiving, by a first device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

responsive to receiving the command, performing, by the first device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device;~~, such that the second or a third device has access to the metrics information independent of forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first device.~~

receiving, at the second device, a request from a third device to access the metrics information; and

responsive to receiving the request, providing access to the metrics information to the third device without the third device communicating with the first device.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first device by the second or third device.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

5. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for distributing peripheral device metrics information, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, by a first device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

performing, by the first device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device for access by an application on a third device, such that the ~~second or a~~ application on the third device ~~has~~ can access the metrics information ~~independent of~~without forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first device.

6. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

7. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first device by the second or third device.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

9. (Currently amended) An imaging device comprising:

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions for distributing metrics information corresponding to imaging operations;

a processor that is operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to fetch and execute the computer-executable instructions from the memory, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, by a first device, a command to perform an imaging operation;

performing, by the first device, the imaging operation; and

responsive to performing the imaging operation, communicating, by the first device, metrics information corresponding to the imaging operation to a second device for access by an application on a third device, such that the ~~second device or a~~application on the third device can access the metrics information ~~independent of~~without forwarding any request for the metrics information to the first device.

10. (Original) An imaging device as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and print media type information.

11. (Original) An imaging device as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information is not directly solicited from the first device by the second or third device.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

13. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a method for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the method comprising:

receiving, at a server device, imaging metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device; and

responsive to receiving the imaging metrics, automatically communicating the at least a portion of the imaging ~~operational~~ metrics to an order processing utility~~an application~~.

14. (Original) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging device is a printer.

15. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim ~~13~~17, wherein the imaging ~~operational~~ metrics comprises at least one of toner utilization information, page count, or ~~and~~ print media type information, and wherein the billing utility determines client billing based on the imaging metrics.

16. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging metrics ~~information~~ comprises at least one of toner utilization information, page count, or print media type information, and wherein the order processing utility reorders at least one of print media or toner based on the imaging metrics.

17. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a method for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the method comprising:

receiving, at a server device, imaging metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device; and

responsive to receiving the imaging metrics, automatically communicating at least a portion of the imaging metrics to ~~A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the application comprises~~ a billing utility ~~or an order processing unit~~.

18. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:

receiving a registration request from the ~~application~~order processing utility; and

~~wherein~~ responsive to the registration request, configuring the server device to automatically communicate~~ing~~ the at least a portion of the imaging device operational metrics to the order processing utility~~application is based on the registration request~~.

19. (Currently amended) In a distributed computing environment, a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for providing real-time imaging metrics information, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, at a server device, imaging operational metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;

receiving, at the server device, a request from an application program for at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics, the application program executing on another device different from the imaging device and the server device; and

communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics from the server device to the application program.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the metrics information comprises page count and/or print media type information.

21. (Original) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the metrics information comprises toner utilization information.

22. (Currently amended) A server comprising:

a memory comprising computer-executable instructions for providing real-time imaging metrics information;

a processor that is operatively coupled to the memory, the processor being configured to fetch and execute the computer-executable instructions from the memory, the computer-executable instructions comprising instructions for:

receiving, at ~~a~~ the server ~~device~~, an unsolicited set of imaging operational metrics corresponding to an imaging operation, the imaging operation having been performed by an imaging device;

receiving, at the server ~~device~~, a request from an application program for at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics, the application program executing on another device different from the imaging device and the server; and

communicating the at least a portion of the imaging operational metrics to the application program.

23. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the request from the third device to access the metrics information is a registration request to automatically receive the metrics information whenever the metrics information is updated, and wherein the providing access to the metrics information to the third device includes the second device communicating the metrics information to the third device when the first device communicates updated metrics information to the second device.

24. (New) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the automatically communicating is performed without communicating with the imaging device.

25. (New) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the automatically communicating is performed without the application polling or querying the server device.

26. (New) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the imaging metrics are received periodically, and wherein the automatically communicating occurs when the at least a portion of the imaging metrics is updated.

27. (New) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the order processing utility is located at other than the imaging device and the server device.

28. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 5, wherein the application is at least one of a billing utility or an order processing utility.

29. (New) A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 19, wherein the communicating is performed automatically without the application program polling or querying the server device.

30. (New) A server as recited in claim 22, wherein the request from the application program is a registration request, and wherein the communicating is performed automatically without the application program polling or querying the server device.

31. (New) A method as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

receiving a registration request from the billing utility; and

responsive to the registration request, configuring the server device to automatically communicate the at least a portion of the imaging device operational metrics to the billing utility.